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Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 13 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 5 December 2013, I regret to inform you that the Republic of Turkey continues its provocative and unlawful actions in the Eastern Mediterranean towards the Republic of Cyprus through illegal seismic survey operations in Cyprus's territorial sea, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf.

In particular, the seismic vessel *Barbaros Hayreddin Paşa*, owned by TPAO, the state-owned petroleum company of the Republic of Turkey, conducted between 12 December 2013 and 14 January 2014 seismic survey operations in an area partly falling within the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of the Republic of Cyprus (see annex I).

Moreover, upon conclusion of its seismic operations in the area indicated in annex I of the present letter, the Republic of Turkey proceeded to reserve, for the period of 27 January 2014 to 13 May 2014, areas falling within the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of the Republic of Cyprus in which it carries out, illegally, seismic survey operations (see annex II).

The Republic of Cyprus wishes to reiterate that these new provocative and illegal acts of the Republic of Turkey, constitute violation of customary international law, as codified in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In particular, with these acts Turkey violates:

- The sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus over its territorial sea (articles 2-3 of the Convention)
- The sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus to explore and exploit natural resources in the seabed and subsoil of its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf (articles 56 and 77, respectively of the Convention).

Additionally, Turkey stands in violation of the domestic legislation of the Republic of Cyprus and in particular the Territorial Sea Law (Law No. 45/1964), the

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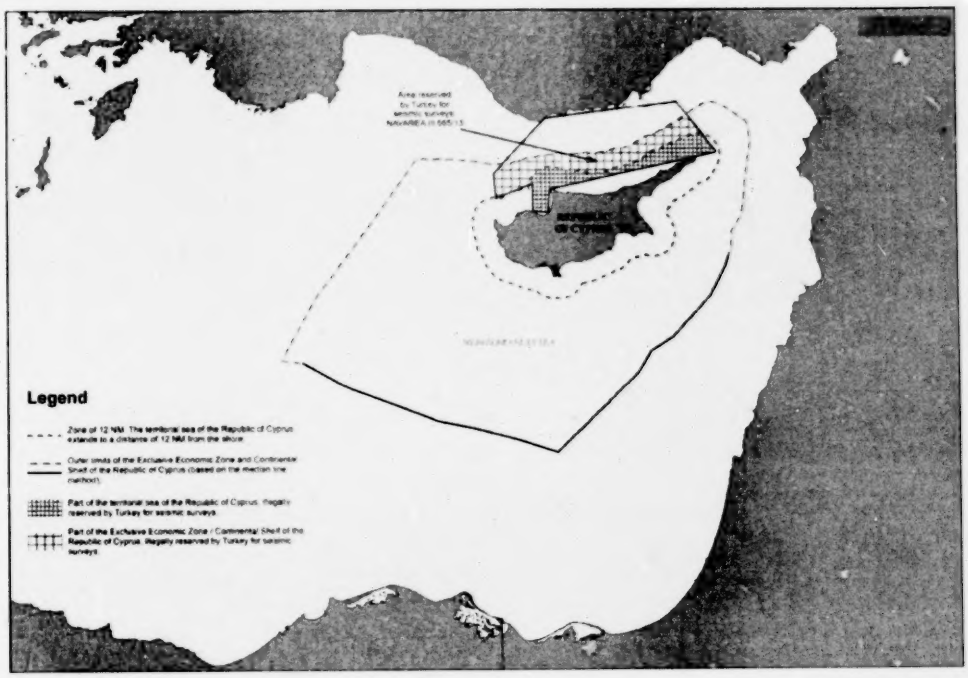
Continental Shelf Law (Law No. 8/1974) and the Exclusive Economic Zone Law (Law No. 64(I)/2004).

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus, calls once again on the Government of the Republic of Turkey to respect international law, as well as the laws of the Republic of Cyprus, and desist with immediate effect from all seismic survey operations within the maritime zones of Cyprus and refrain from similar activity in the future.

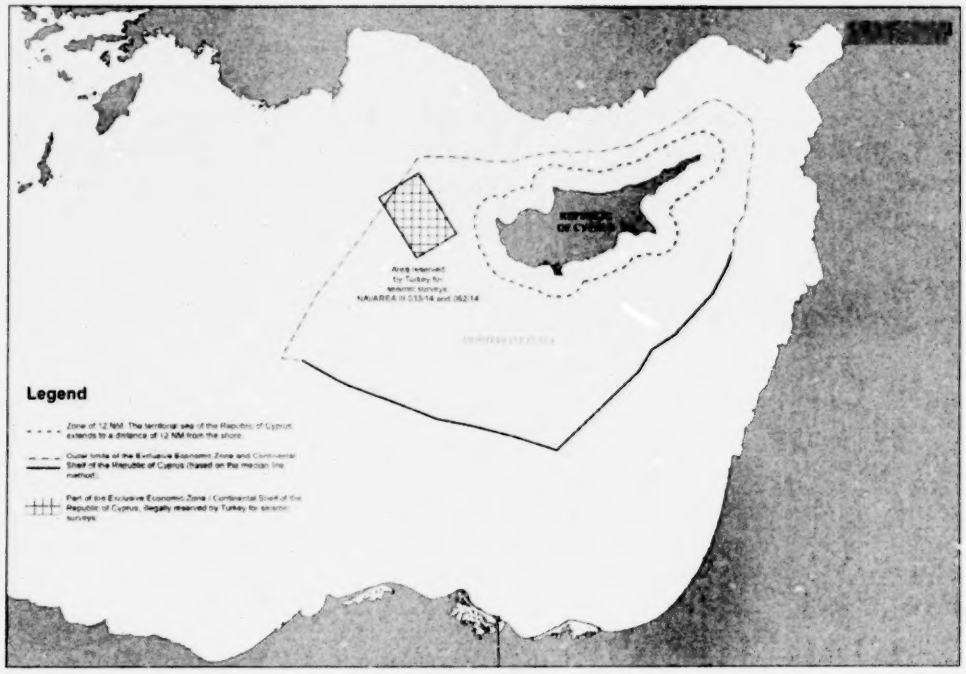
I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 76, and have it published in the next Law of the Sea Bulletin.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou** (Dr.)

Annex I


Area reserved by Turkey for seismic surveys NAVAREA II 565/13
Legend
Zone of 12 NM. The territorial sea of the Republic of Cyprus extends to a distance of 12 NM from the shore.
Outer limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf of the Republic of Cyprus (based on the median line method).
Part of the territorial sea of the Republic of Cyprus illegally reserved by Turkey for seismic surveys
Part of the Exclusive Economic Zone / Continental Shelf of the Republic of Cyprus illegally reserved by Turkey for seismic surveys

Annex II


Area reserved
by Turkey for
seismic surveys
NAVAREA III 033/14 and 062/14
Legend
Zone of 12 NM. The territorial sea of the Republic of Cyprus
extends to a distance of 12 NM from the shore.
Outer limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental
Shelf of the Republic of Cyprus (based on the median line
method).
Part of the Exclusive Economic Zone / Continental Shelf of the
Republic of Cyprus, illegally reserved by Turkey for seismic
surveys.